

N.C. DOT

Please address these issues that have been circulated by a group who call themselves  
*Concerned Citizens of Blowing Rock*

1. Does your preferred route for a By-pass go through the middle of town? (This is the way it has been described in many of their mailouts)
2. If the By-pass is made along the existing route, will traffic be routed onto Main Street and Green Hill areas? If not, how will you manage traffic flow?
3. Will it take six "construction seasons" to complete this road?
4. When will construction begin on the section between Blackberry Rd. and Blowing Rock?
5. Will efforts be made to keep noise down as much as possible?
6. Will you be open about your plans? (when people don't have facts, they make their own)

I would like to go on record as one "Concerned Citizen" who believes that the By-pass should use the existing route. It would be far more devastating to see a whole mountain range sacrificed for the sake of a few houses. Please widen 321 where it is and don't destroy any more of our beautiful mountains than is absolutely necessary!!!

Sincerely,  
Edith Gryder  
972 Edmisten Rd.  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605  
(828)295-3410

B-91

RECEIVED  
SEP 23 2002

Edith Gryder  
972 Edmisten Rd.  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605  
Sept. 18, 2002

Mr. Carl Goode, P.E.  
Manager of the Office of Human Environment

Dear Mr. Goode

I would just like to take a moment to express my thoughts on the US 321 from Blackberry Rd. to Blowing Rock. First, let me thank you for the hearing you held last month in Blowing Rock. That was a great opportunity to learn and to hear other people's thoughts.

I believe there is a great need for the road to be improved and I believe it should be done using the existing route.

Anyone traveling between Lenoir and Blowing Rock very much and at different times should recognize that the traffic does get very congested at times. All it takes for a back-up of traffic is a slow moving vehicle or a stalled vehicle in the road.

I understand that a lot of people have the idea that to widen 321 would be going through the town of Blowing Rock without realizing that where it is to be widened is already a by-pass. We have had quite a lot of misleading information circulating around.

True, it would be sad to see some of the older structures moved or removed, but, (these structures were built in probably a few months time and could be moved if necessary-or rebuilt) it would be much sadder to see the old family farms destroyed. You see these farms took many years and lots of hard labor to develop them into productive lands. It would also be much sadder to see more of our mountains destroyed than is absolutely necessary.


When making your final decision, please consider the people of Blackberry Valley and the impact a road cut into the mountain above them would have.

Also I believe in being good stewards. You have been entrusted with the stewardship of not only our land but of the taxpayers money. It would not be a good thing to spend so much on one of the alternative routes when Dot already has right-of-way and could widen the existing route at a much lower cost—to us taxpayers.

The one thing that I would like to see is to have several turn lanes on the Blowing Rock Bypass. This would help to keep traffic moving and increase the safety of the road.

If you're still reading this, THANKS.

Sincerely,  
Edith Gryder



DAVID M. HARDAWAY

September 10, 2002

Mr. Sam Erby, BOT, Division II  
NCDOT  
PO Drawer 230  
Granite Falls, NC 28630

Dear Sir:

I would like to take advantage to the comment period available concerning the bypass/widening project in Blowing Rock. I live in Hickory and own a second home in the Blowing Rock area.

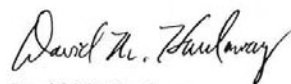
The DOT has studied this issue long and hard. Though the current road and lanes manage the traffic reasonably well most of the time, certainly the highway will become more congested over time, making for a detrimental situation for the town of Blowing Rock. It is reasonable to object to widening the current route; however, I believe that this is the best alternative available.

To cut a new road around Blowing Rock, would only serve to diminish the beauty of yet another area, requiring destruction of forests, interrupting more scenic views, and likely causing even more unintended consequences to the High Country.

This project is not unlike the widening of highway 127 in Hickory ten years ago done over the objection of many. The 5-lane road now gets congested and it would be impossible if it were still 3 lanes.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardaway

506 SECOND AVENUE, NW • HICKORY, NC • 28601-4948

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

ADDRESS:

BETSY HARRIS  
1775 SUNSET DR

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Please don't widen existing 321 -  
Put in a few turn lanes.  
DONT put in any other roads

Comments may be mailed to:

C. B. Goode, Jr., P. E.

Manager of the Office of Human Environment

1583 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1599 Phone: (919) 250-4092 Fax: (919) 250-4208

E-mail: cgoode@dot.state.nc.us

COMMENT SHEET

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AUG 26 2002

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Betty Harwood

ADDRESS:

367 Fairway Court, Blowing Rock, NC 2860

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

I'm a new resident of Blowing Rock and I attended the gathering at Laurel Baptist Church recently. From informal I learned there, from visiting here for years, and from living here a short while, I have come to the conclusion that Hwy # 321 needs improvement. It is apparent that widening is necessary no matter what other alternatives are selected or not. There are places where due to traffic one struggles to enter the road or turn off of it. Also, there are places where it is an eyesore to an otherwise beautiful village. The congestion will be even more pronounced once the new Community Arts Center is completed on Hwy # 321 and in use. Bypass 1A and 1B are inconceivable and impractical as they would affect so many village homes and are the last long term solution, but very costly and

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opposed by many various interest groups. In conclusion, in my estimation, improvement of Hwy # 321 is a necessity.

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AUG 26 2002

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Graham Harwood

ADDRESS:

367 Fairway Court, Blowing Rock, NC 28605

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Blowing Rock needs to have an entryway on both the North and South town limits and US 321 approaches Blowing Rock. The existing roadbed is considered business and additional traffic loads are anticipated with the completion of the new performing arts center near the existing Foodline and Dollar General location. Widening the existing roadbed would provide an attractive entry into the town and maintain safe and orderly traffic flow. This is needed today! Individuals who purchased real estate for residential and commercial purposes should have known the roadbed was subject to improvements, including adding additional lanes. I have reviewed all of the improvement proposals and firmly believe that the widening is the most feasible choice. This choice follows an established traffic corridor and beautifies an existing road that is not typical of the view amenity seen on other Blowing Rock streets and roads. Each of the other alternatives degrades the natural beauty of the proposed routes and still does not improve the situation along the existing US 321 through Blowing Rock.

I am a Blowing Rock full time resident, residential property owner, commercial business owner and commercial real estate property owner. I give my 100% support to the Widening Alternative as described in the pre-hearing open house that I attended at Laurel Fork Baptist Church.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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**COMMENT SHEET**

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C Project 6.739001T Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME: Kathleen I. Hasty M.S.W.

ADDRESS: 567 Huckleberry Trail, Boone, N. C. #28607

**COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

Although we prefer Blowing Rock remain the charming village as is, if road construction is imminent, we STRONGLY PREFER WIDENING THE EXISTING 321 BYPASS. The proposed widening pictured by the DOT portrays us even more attractive with a tree-lined boulevard, flowered median and the removal of ugly power lines that now exist.

We compliment the DOT'S recent meetings and hearing which outlined the choices of alternatives. We agree that the lower cost widening of the existing #321 Bypass makes more sense than the alternatives which range into the millions. Neither would it mar our beautiful mountains, the reason many of us moved to Blowing Rock.

Most North Carolina citizens who come want to visit BLOWING ROCK! They prefer driving directly to the town itself to share in our Art in the Park days, our horse shows and sample our unique shops and restaurants.

Our N. C. Legislature has too many urgent needs statewide than building roads through our mountains which destroy our native beauty and wild life. What right have we to demand an exorbitantly expensive alternative that most of us DO NOT WANT! Only a vocal minority of citizens have continued to cause opposition, much to the embarrassment of the rest of us!.

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E-mail: cgoode@dot.state.nc.us

9/4/2002

**Scales, Reggie**

**From:** dick hearn [roads@apptechinc.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 2002 11:43 AM

**To:** Scales, Reggie

**Cc:** dick hearn

**Subject:** blowingrock 321 project

Of the preposed plans for highway 321 in the blowing rock section the only acceptable plan would be widening the 321 bypass with minor improvements. Planning for access on and off 321 would fulfill the needs of the local people but would keep traffic moving. The alternatives 4a and 4b are completely unacceptable because of the permanent destruction of the environment. Someone supposedly has seen the 'hell's blazing star' in this area, contrary to the opinion of the federal government that there are no 'hell's blazing star' plants left in watauga county.

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Joan Hearn

ADDRESS:

1741 Blackberry Rd. Boone, NC 28607

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Of the proposed plans for Highway 321 for the Blowing Rock section the only acceptable plan would be the widening of the 321 bypass with minor improvements. Planning for access on and off 321 would fulfill the needs of the local people but would best traffic moving. The alternatives 4A and 4B are completely unacceptable because of the permanent destruction of the environment. Someone supposedly has seen the 'Helle's Blowing Star' in this area, contrary to the opinion of the Federal Government that there are no 'Helle's Blowing Star' plants left in Watauga County.

Comments may be mailed to:

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Scales, Reggie

From: dick hearn [loads@applechn.net]

Sent: Sunday, September 01, 2002 10:40 AM

To: Scales, Reggie

Cc: dick hearn

Subject: blowing rock 312

I'm a old dog (I'll be 15 in October - you can sent a birthday card ) and one of the few pleasures at this stage of my life is to sit outside and enjoy our beautiful mountains. My owners have explained to me ( I like to keep up with current events, even if I'm just a dog) the different plans DOT has purposed for highway 321. After much discussion with my owners (actually I own them, but don't tell), we were in total agreement that the best plan with the smallest impact to the environment, the blowing rock community, this part of the county and the most cost effective plan would be to widen the existing 321 bypass. The only other acceptable plan would be to do nothing.

nickie

email - loads@applechn.net

birthday - October 16th

9/4/2002

B-95

Wade C. and Cordelia F. Helms  
Chetola Resort--PO BOX 453  
257-1 Waterside Drive  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

RECEIVED  
AUG 22 2002

Mr Carl Goode, PE, Manager  
Office of Human Environment--NCDOT  
1583 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

AN IMORTANT MESSAGE TO YOU AND NCDOT:

DO IT ONCE AND DO IT RIGHT: BUILD A TRULY GREAT BY-  
PASS. ONE ROAD IS CHEAPER THAN TWO. A TUNNEL BYPASS  
WOULD EVENTUALLY BE NEEDED ANYWAY.

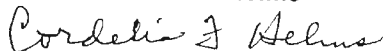
B-96 All we read about nowadays is the New York WTC disaster  
and the impact on it's citizens. LET'S NOT DO THAT TO BLOWING  
ROCK.

PLEASE, PLEASE let's not have a terrifying road widening in  
BEAUTIFUL BLOWING ROCK !!!!

Sincerely,



Wade C. and Cordelia F. Helms



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AUG 26 2002

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

BARBARA HENDRIX

ADDRESS:

1543 ORCHARD LN. BOONE, NC.

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

As a resident of the BLACKBERRY AREA MY  
CONCERNS ARE FOR THE FRAGILE BEAUTY THAT THIS AREA  
HOLDS AND THE VIEWS FROM THE OVERLOOKS OF THE BLUE  
RIDGE PARKWAY. THE COST OF AN OUTER BYPASS IS  
ANOTHER REASON FOR MY CONCERN. THE DOT WOULD BE  
A GOOD STEWARD OF OUR TAX DOLLARS BY ROUTING A  
4 LANE THROUGH THE PRESENT BYPASS IN BLOWING ROCK  
PROPER. AFTER REVIEWING YOUR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS  
I SEE THE ADDED ATTRACTIVENESS (PLANTINGS, MEDIAN  
STRIP, etc) A BONUS FOR BOTH RESIDENT AND VISITOR.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD MY  
OPINION TO THE DEBATE.

Barbara Hendrix

Comments may be mailed to:

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US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME: David Hendrix (Davidhendrix@boone.net)  
ADDRESS: 1543 Orchard Lane, Boone, NC 28607

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

We live off Blackberry Road and do not wish to see Hwy 321 rerouted at all. Seems to us that the improvements should be where the road is now. That would help the appearance and the traffic and would not affect the charm of Blowing Rock Village. It will certainly help it.

We are for the most economical way. It seems frivolous and uprooting to reroute the road. Not to mention what it will mean to the environment. Headwaters to the Yadkin River and other water sheds will be badly affected and it will be detrimental to the view from The Blue Ridge Parkway.

Thank you for consideration to these facts.

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P.S. We are sure that you are well aware of all this and of the "Bullying Tactics" some of the people are using to advance their views

CITIZEN  
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AUG 28 2002

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME: MARIAN F. HERBERT  
ADDRESS: POB 1545, BLOWING ROCK, NC

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS: Bypass Alternatives 4A and 4B are the only alternatives we are willing to accept. (FRANKLY, I THINK YOU COULD DO BETTER!) Here is my idea of a COMPROMISE: 1) build a two lane true bypass around Blowing Rock, 2) improve Valley Blvd to three lanes w/ a center turn lane to improve traffic flow. (THIS CREATES 4 LANES TO AND FROM BOONE) Then, when your own projections claim a 4 lane bypass around Blowing Rock will be necessary, build the other 2 lanes of 4A and 4B (bi-furcated, of course). This will spread costs and construction over a longer period of time, but will ultimately result in 6 full lanes to and from Boone. We will never approve or allow 4 lanes of Valley Boulevard. Please listen to your constituents for once!

Comments may be mailed to:

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Blowing Rock, 19th of August 2002


Mr William Gilmore  
PDEA Branch, NCDOT  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC

Dear Mr Gilmore,

Who's idea was it to build a 4 lane highway in Blowing Rock in the first place? People come here temporarily or permanently to escape the type of environment a highway would create. I don't think the idea was from a resident.

I am writing today to tell you that my husband and I (that's 2 persons) oppose and are strongly against the building of that highway in the town of Blowing Rock. Let them bypass down the mountain and reach that beautiful and costly HWY421.

Sincerely,

  
Doreen Day Holloway  
P.O.Box 380  
Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697



**COMMENT SHEET**

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties


August 26, 2002

NAME: Richard C. Hood

ADDRESS: 307 Scene A Rama Dr Boone NC 28607

**COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

Since I won't be able to attend the meeting. I want to express my view. I think we should go with the Widening option. This would probably cost much less than those others. Thank you

  
08-25-02

AUG 27 2002



ATTACHED

To: Mr. Carl Goodale, Jr.  
Manager of the Dept. of Human Environment  
1583 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh NC 27699-1583

Carol Howard  
209A Falls St  
Morganton NC 28653

Sept. 24, 2002

Re: TFP # 2237C 321 From Blackberry Rd south of Blowing Rock  
to Pine Rd north of Blowing Rock

I prefer the "no-build" alternative but I realize that this would not meet the expected level of service so let's compromise some between the "no-build" alternative and the 'widening' and choose the Transportation Systems Management. Adding a few turn lanes would aid in the flow of traffic. I realize from the DEIS that TSM is more than just widening lanes & if I saw more detail on it I might think differently but it seems like it might be a possible compromise.

Now don't just toss this letter in a stack to get a count of how many are for or against a certain alternative. "I have read several pages of the DEIS and G.S.136 and my letter is much "lighter" reading." I realize the hard work that went into the many reports of the DEIS. G.S.136 gives me a glimpse of the detailed & varied responsibilities of the DOT - from earnings & jobyears to highway systems. I appreciate the time you and Parsons Brinkerhoff put into the project & the report.

$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} m v^2 + U(r) \right) = -\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{dr}{dt} \left( L^2 - \frac{L^2}{4} \right)$

For our current discussion, I can only speak to each tree. I think that G.S. dealing at that point of it, needs to be challenged due to the continuing loss of habitat for plants and animals.

My strongest objection is to the 4A & 4B alternatives. Yes, my life, my family & our neighbors would be changed by these alternatives. The loss of her home would be devastating to our neighbor. She would no longer be my neighbor. We would not be able to go on long walks of solitude and the farm would be split down the middle. But the real loser would be nature. Large areas of undeveloped property and clean water are vital to the life of plants and animals both large and small: blue herons, deer, turkey (whose favorite roosting place is right on the proposed alternative), trilliums, brook trout, blood root, screech owls, trout lilies, the sweetest pear I've ever tasted, light brown spiders with bright red spots on their backs living under a white quartz rock and giant proud trees. I could fill pages with more I've seen and pages with what I've missed. Such beauty, such diversity cannot be restored, cannot be re-created, should not be destroyed.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION  
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SEP 27 2002

Caul Howard

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Stephen M. Howard

ADDRESS:

209 Apt. A Fines St. Morganton, N.C. 28655

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

To whom it may concern:  
I am a concerned person who has access to a house off of  
Auto Rd. in Blowing Rock, and travels from Morganton to  
Blowing Rock on a regular basis year round.

After having attended your last few meetings, I find  
that I must agree with the growing faction that you do  
not have a viable, suitable alternative, that is workable  
at this time.

As a person who travels this route quite frequently,  
my opinion is that the quickest and easiest way to relieve the  
congestion through Blowing Rock is to simply create two  
lanes, with lights, at the 3 main intersections off of the  
existing 3rd byway.

In the past 10 yrs. I have observed that the major cause  
of congestion through the area, especially on weekends,  
seems to be caused by folks attempting to turn left at  
these intersections and blocking the through traffic.

I would like to add that in 10 yrs. I have never  
personally observed an accident or even a "near miss" at  
these areas.

Comments may be mailed to:

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SEP 27 2002

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Howe

Post Office Box 529

Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605

9/6/02

CITIZEN

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2002

Dear Mr. Goode:

You have heard all the reasons so count  
us in the group that wants a true bypass  
around Blowing Rock. As the resolution that  
our Town Council signed said, "We don't want  
road widening in the town limits of Blowing  
Rock." Local and through traffic is a recipe for  
disaster.

Sincerely,  
Betty Howe

B-100